

### **Listing of Claims:**

**Claims 1** (currently amended) A compound ~~characterized in that it is chosen~~ selected from the compounds capable of binding to hormone receptors and in that it comprises a nitrogen monoxide-donor nitric ester group, with the exception of estradiol substituted in the 11- and/or 17-position with a nitric ester group.

**Claim 2** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hormone receptors are ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of steroid receptors, retinoid receptors and vitamin D derivative receptors.

**Claim 3** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in either one of claims 1 and 2,~~ characterized in that of claim 1 wherein the compound capable of binding to hormone receptors is a natural hormone.

**Claim 4** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in either one of claims 1 and 2,~~ characterized in that of claim 1 wherein the compound capable of binding to hormone receptors is a synthetic hormone.

**Claim 5** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized in that of claim 1 wherein the compound capable of binding to hormone receptors is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group ~~composed~~ consisting of a progestogen hormone, an estrogen, an anti-mineralocorticoid, an androgen ~~or~~ and an anti-androgen ~~or~~ and a combination of these hormones.

**Claim 6** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the hormone capable of binding to hormone receptors is ~~chosen~~ selected from the ~~following~~ group consisting of protosterone, 17OH-progesterone, estradiol, ~~ethinyl~~ ethynyl estradiol, aldosterone, spironolactone, drospirenone, testosterone and cyproterone.

**Claim 7** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it comprises~~ of claim 1 comprising at least one or more NO<sub>2</sub> ~~groups~~ group bonded to the hormone directly via the oxygen atom of the enolic form or by ~~means of a benzyloxy radical.~~

**Claim 8** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the NO<sub>2</sub> group(s) is (are) bonded directly to the hormone via the oxygen atom of the enolic form of the hormone.

**Claim 9** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the NO<sub>2</sub> group(s) is (are) bonded to the hormone by ~~means of a benzyloxy radical.~~

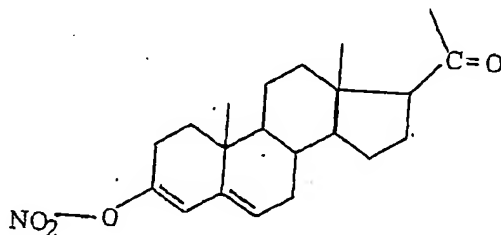
**Claim 10** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 9, characterized in that wherein the benzyloxy ~~radical~~ is bonded to the hormone by ~~means of a~~ group that establishes a bridge.

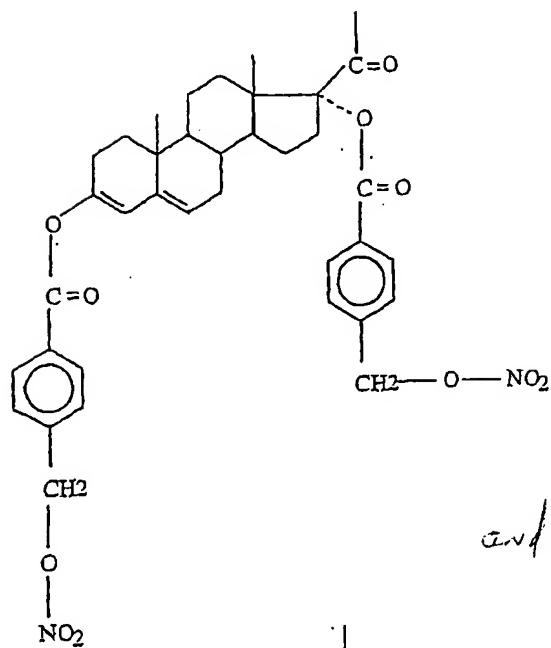
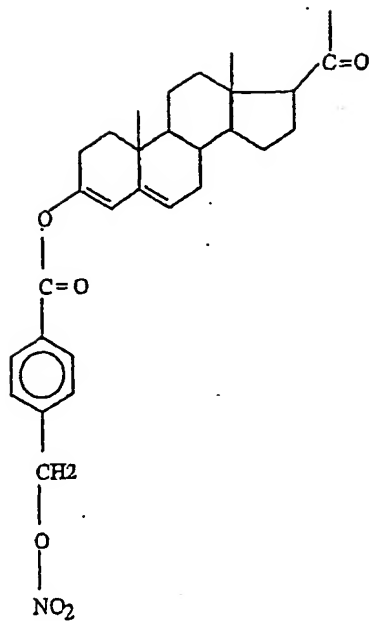
**Claim 11** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the bridge is C=O or COO.

**Claim 12** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the hormone capable of binding to hormone receptors is  
progesterone.

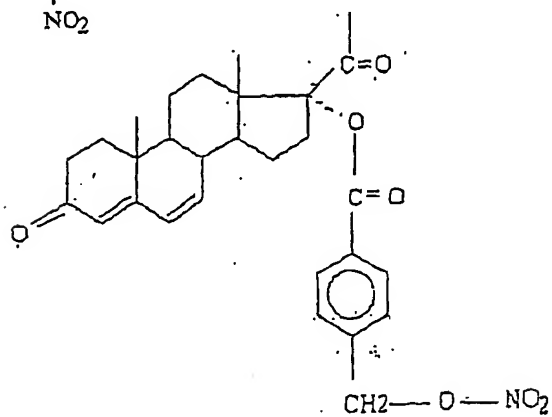
**Claim 13** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the hormone capable of binding to hormone receptors is  
17OH-progesterone.

**Claim 14** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein it corresponds to the formulae has a formula selected from the group consisting of





and

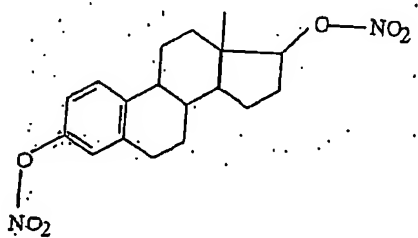


**Claim 15** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the hormone capable of binding to hormone receptors is  
estradiol.

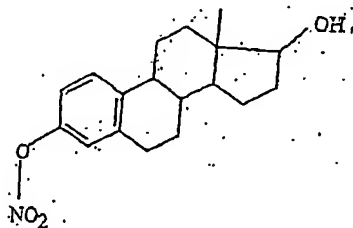
**Claim 16** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein it is substituted in the 17- and 3-position of the estradiol with an NO<sub>2</sub> group bonded to  
the oxygen atom of the OH function of the estradiol.

**Claim 17** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein it is substituted in the 3-position of the estradiol with an NO<sub>2</sub> group bonded to the  
oxygen atom of the OH function of ~~the~~ estradiol.

**Claim 18** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in claim 16 or 17,~~ ~~characterized in that~~  
of claim 16 wherein it corresponds to the ~~formulae~~ formula



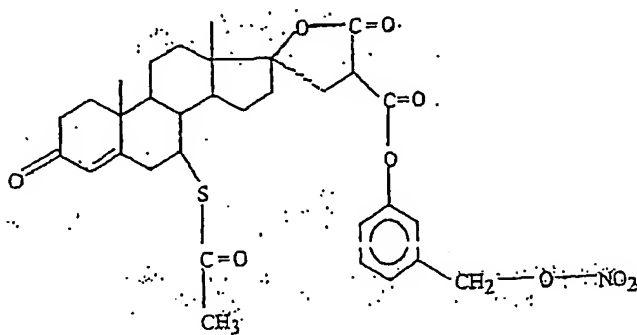
or



**Claim 19** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the hormone capable of binding to hormone receptors is  
spironolactone.

**Claim 20** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein it comprises an NO<sub>2</sub> group bonded by ~~means of a benzyloxy radical.~~

**Claim 21** (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein it corresponds to the formula



**Claims 22-33** (cancelled)

**Claim 34** (new) A composition to prevent premature births comprising an amount of a  
compound of claim 1 sufficient to prevent premature births and an inert pharmaceutical carrier.

**Claim 35 (new)** A method of preventing premature births in women comprising administering to women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to prevent premature births.

**Claim 36 (new)** A method of controlling uterine mobility in women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to control uterine mobility.

**Claim 37 (new)** A method of increasing cervical dilation during labor in women comprising administering to women in need thereof of an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to increase cervical dilation.

**Claim 38 (new)** A method of treating uterine contraction anomalies in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to treat uterine contraction anomalies.

**Claim 39 (new)** A method of treating dysmenorrhea in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to treat dysmenorrhea.

**Claim 40 (new)** A method of hormone replacement in menopausal comprising administering to menopausal women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient for hormone replacement.

**Claim 41 (new)** A method of treating arterial hypertension in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to treat arterial hypertension.

**Claim 42 (new)** A method of inducing an endometrial cycle in assisted reproduction in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to induce an endometrial cycle.